

Agenda Item: 12-5A.3

Meeting Dates: August 11 and 12, 2004

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO
THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD THAT IT PROCEED WITH
THE AWARD OF THE CALFED WATERSHED PROGRAM GRANT
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SELECTION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION**

Summary: This resolution recommends to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) that it proceed with awarding a grant in accordance with the recommendations of the Consolidated Grants Selection Committee. This grant (to East Merced Resource Conservation District for the Merced River Alliance Project for \$2,299,977) will fund a watershed assessment and monitoring project within the Merced River Watershed. This project will contribute towards the goals and objectives of the CALFED Watershed Program. This proposal has shown technical merit in a competitive evaluation and selection process.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Authority adopt the attached Resolution 04-08-07.

Background

In response to stakeholder requests to integrate and coordinate related grant programs, SWRCB consolidated and made available up to \$138 million in grants from eight interrelated programs administered by SWRCB. Consolidation allowed staff to reduce application efforts, better integrate Authority and SWRCB program goals with those of our partner agencies, and involve stakeholders in the review process. The eight programs which make up this consolidated grants program are listed below (the last four are CALFED funding sources):

Proposition 13 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program
Proposition 13 Coastal Nonpoint Source Control Program
Proposition 13 Watershed Protection Program
Federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Program
Proposition 13 CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program
Proposition 50 CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program
Proposition 13 CALFED Watershed Program
Proposition 50 CALFED Watershed Program

The submittal of grant applications consisted of two separate steps. In March 2003, a Request for Grant Concept Proposal (Step 1) was released and the deadline for submittal was May 9, 2003. A total of 693 concept proposals, requesting \$863,654,735, was received for all eight grant programs. Applicants submitting the most competitive proposals were invited to respond to a Request for Full Proposals (Step 2) released in August 2003. The deadline for submittal of full proposals was October 15, 2003. A total of 173 full proposals, requesting \$188,941,416, was invited to apply for funding. Of the 173 full proposals, 77 requested a total of \$87,994,144 from the four CALFED programs.

Four review panels were assembled to review proposals for both steps in the grant project submittal process. One of these review panels was formed specifically to review projects requesting funding from the CALFED programs and included staff from the following organizations:

California Bay-Delta Authority Watershed Program	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
California Bay-Delta Authority Drinking Water Program	Latino Issues Forum
California Watershed Network	Regional Water Quality Control Boards 2,4,5, and 8
Department of Health Services	SWRCB
Department of Pesticide Regulation	Urban Creeks Council
Department of Water Resources	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Food and Agriculture	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Partnering with SWRCB in the Consolidated Grants process helps the Authority and its member agencies meet interrelated Drinking Water and Watershed Program goals outlined in the Record of Decision. Drinking Water Program selection criteria focused on constituents that impair Delta water quality, such as organic carbon, bromide, microbial pathogens, salinity, nutrients, turbidity, taste, odor and other drinking water pollutants of concern. Watershed Program selection criteria included CALFED Program goals and objectives, consistency with local and regional water quality plans and programs, performance and success measures, diverse stakeholder involvement, and community capacity building.

Each proposal received multiple independent technical reviews, and funding recommendations were forwarded to the Selection Committee and SWRCB's Watershed Management Initiative Committee for review and approval.

The Authority previously considered and adopted a resolution (Resolution 04-04-03) to support grant funding recommendations and grant amounts for 33 specific proposals to the Proposition 13 and Proposition 50 CALFED Watershed Programs.

The Authority is asked to recommend to SWRCB, that it approve one additional grant award in accordance with the Consolidated Grants Selection Committee's recommendations. This grant to the East Merced Resource Conservation District will fund the Merced River Alliance Project, a watershed assessment and monitoring project within the Merced River Watershed. This project will contribute towards the goals and

objectives of the CALFED Watershed Program. This proposal has shown technical merit in a competitive evaluation and selection process. The proposed grant award amount is \$2,299,977. This recommendation was delayed pending the completion of a blind Independent Science Review of the monitoring tasks included in the proposal. This review was conducted through a standing process established by the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program.

Fiscal Information

Funding Source: Proposition 13 CALFED Watershed Program Grant Funds

Term: November 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007

Total Amount: \$2,299,977

List of Attachments

Resolution 04-08-07

Contact

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**CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION 04-08-07**

**RECOMMENDING TO THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD THAT
IT PROCEED WITH THE AWARD OF THE CALFED WATERSHED PROGRAM GRANT
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SELECTION COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION**

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) coordinated the Consolidated Watershed Protection, Watershed Management, and Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants (Consolidated Grants Program), a two-step competitive grants process which solicited project proposals for eight interrelated grants programs from Proposition 13, Proposition 50, and Federal Clean Water Act section 319; and

WHEREAS, consolidation reduced application efforts, better integrated program goals with partner agencies, involved stakeholders in the review process; and

WHEREAS, four of the grant programs will fund drinking water quality and watershed management projects throughout the CALFED Solution Area and will help the Authority meet the goals of the CALFED Drinking Water Quality and Watershed Programs; and

WHEREAS, SWRCB has completed a grant application and selection process that involved the collaboration and coordination of technical review by SWRCB, Regional Water Quality Control Board, CALFED, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State agency staff, and non-governmental organization stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Authority at its April 7 and 8, 2004 meeting adopted Resolution 04-04-03 recommending grant awards for 33 specific proposals, and is now being asked to recommend to SWRCB that it approve one additional grant recommended by the Selection Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California Bay-Delta Authority supports the findings of the Consolidated Grants Selection Committee, and recommends to SWRCB that a CALFED Watershed Management Grant be awarded, in accordance with the Selection Committee's findings, to the East Merced Resource Conservation District for the Merced River Alliance Project for \$2,299,977.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Authority held on August 11 and 12, 2004.

Dated: _____

Heidi Rooks
Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority